

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): A connector, comprising:

at least one female part for forming a sealing connection with at least one male part; and
a plurality of locking tangs formed in the female part for engaging the male part, each of
the locking tangs having at least one recess configured for receiving a tool to disengage the
connection between the male and female parts,

wherein a longitudinal axis running through a center of the at least one recess ~~extending~~
extends transversely to a direction of movement of the locking tangs upon disengagement of the
male and female parts.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The connector of claim 10, wherein the recess comprises a
hole extending at least partially through the corresponding locking tang.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The connector of claim 10, wherein the recess comprises a
hole extending completely through the corresponding locking tang.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): The connector of claim 10, wherein at least two of the locking
tangs have the recesses for receiving the tool to urge apart the locking tangs.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The connector of claim 14, wherein the tool is inserted into the recess of each of the two locking tangs to disengage the connection between the male and female parts.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The connector of claim 10, wherein the male part includes at least one shoulder for engaging the locking tangs.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The connector of claim 10, wherein the male part includes at least one groove for engaging the locking tangs.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (previously presented): The connector of claim 10, wherein the plurality of locking tangs are formed integrally with the female part.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The connector of claim 10, wherein the locking tangs have free ends pointing in a direction of insertion of the male part into the female part.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The connector of claim 20, wherein the free ends of the locking tangs project into a space in the female part for engagement with the male part.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The connector of claim 10, wherein each of the locking tangs has a smooth portion, and another smooth portion is formed on the female part, such that the smooth portions together form a position indicator indicating whether the male part is properly inserted into the female part.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The connector of claim 22, wherein upon proper insertion of the male part into the female part, the smooth portions are in the same radial position, whereas upon improper insertion of the male part into the female part, the smooth portion of each locking tang is displaced radially outwardly of the male part.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The connector of claim 10, wherein the connector includes a plurality of female parts forming at least one of an in-line connector, an elbow, a tee, and a cross.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The connector of claim 10, wherein the female part includes at least one nipple for mounting at least one pipe or hose.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The connector of claim 10, wherein at least one fluid flows through the male and female parts.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A connector for forming a sealing connection between at least one female part and at least one male part, comprising:

a plurality of locking tangs formed in the female part for engaging the male part, each of the locking tangs having ~~an engaging means~~ at least one recess configured for receiving a tool to disengage the connection between the male and female parts,

wherein a longitudinal axis running through a center of the ~~engaging means~~ extending at least one recess extends transversely to a direction of movement of the locking tangs upon disengagement of the male and female parts.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The connector of claim 27, wherein the ~~engaging means is a recess or hole~~ comprises a hole extending at least partially through the corresponding locking tang.

Claim 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (currently amended): The connector of claim 27, wherein at least two of the locking tangs each have the at least one recess ~~or hole~~ for receiving the tool to urge apart the locking tangs.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The connector of claim 30, wherein the tool is inserted into the at least one recess or hole of each of the two locking tangs to disengage the connection between the male and female parts.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The connector of claim 27, wherein the ~~engaging means is~~ locking tangs further include a projection or lug.

Claim 33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (currently amended): A method for forming a releasable connection between at least one female part and at least one male part, comprising the steps of:

forming a plurality of locking tangs in the female part, each of the locking tangs having at least one recess and configured for receiving a tool to disengage the connection between the male and female parts, wherein a longitudinal axis running through a center of the at least one recess ~~extending~~ extends transversely to a direction of movement of the locking tangs upon disengagement of the male and female parts; and

engaging the locking tangs with the male part.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method of claim 34, wherein the male part is formed with at least one first shoulder and at least one second shoulder, and the female part includes at least one O-ring.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The method of claim 35, wherein the step of engaging the locking tangs with the male part comprises the steps of:

engaging the locking tangs with the at least one first shoulder of the male part; and

engaging the locking tangs with the at least one second shoulder of the male part such that the at least one O-ring of the female part becomes compressed.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method of claim 34, further comprising the step of:

inserting the tool into the recesses of two of the locking tangs to urge apart the locking tangs and disengage the connection between the male and female parts.